

# MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th February 2023 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	K French MW Purser	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor C Elkin R Johnson	SR Court J French RF Skoulding
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk	S Lemmon	
	Assistant Town Clerk	S Taylor	
	Public	3	

## 156 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Jack, Tustin and White.

## 157 Remembrance Parade 2023 – Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer MBE

Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer MBE attended the meeting to present to Town Councillors his proposals regarding the format of the Remembrance Parade in 2023. A revision to the regular format was needed on account of the works taking place in Broad Street as part of the FHSF project and the inaccessibility of the war memorial.

On Saturday 11 November 2023, the Remembrance service would take place at St Peters Church, the location of the original memorial. No road closures would be required on 11 November.

For the Parade on Sunday 12 November, West End Park would be utilised, with a format similar to the MAFF and a drum head service. Minimal road closures would be required. Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer would speak to the The Lions regarding additional speakers for better amplification.

An update on the MAFF for 2023 was also presented to Councillors. Planning for the event was well underway and it promises to be even bigger this year.

## 158 Broad Street Project – Written Update

A written update from Matt Wright, Fenland District Council was circulated to Councillors by email on 31 January 2023.

## 159 Police Update

All written reports to date have been circulated.

The date of the next police liaison meeting is not yet known as there has been a change of Sergeant.

## 160 Planning Applications

Because of their position on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and their commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillors Connor, J French and Purser declare a permanent personal interest and take no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

It is also noted that, due to his involvement in the building industry, Councillor Skoulding does not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

It was agreed that 3 (three) additional planning applications would be considered.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR21/0885/F	<p>Aldi Stores Ltd Agent – Planning Potential Ltd Erect a retail food store (Class E(a)) with accompanying car park, formation of a new access and associated highway works; and landscaping scheme to include erecting 6 x 6m column mounted lights; involving the demolition of existing storage buildings (Class B8) at 1-3 Hostmoor and 1 Martin Avenue, March.</p> <p><b>Revised Proposals; March Town Centre Health check, Retail impact sensitivity tables, response to objector comments.</b> Received: 23 January 2023 Reply by: 13 February 2023 <b>Recommendation: Approval subject to request that the entrance/egress features are installed prior to construction works commencing to avoid construction vehicles crossing from one side of Hostmoor Avenue to the other.</b></p>
F/YR23/0054/TRTPO	<p>Mr Christopher Stone/ IG Environmental Services, Alnwick Fell 2 x ash trees and 2 x oak trees covered by TPO1/2011 at TPO land East of 88 West End, March. Received: 26 January 2023 Reply by: 16 February 2023 <b>Recommendation; Approval</b></p>

- F/YR23/0073/F Mr & Mrs Ogden, 95 Foxglove Way, March.  
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 95 Foxglove Way, March.  
Received: 30 January 2023  
Reply by: 20 February 2023  
**Recommendation; Approval**
- F/YR23/0074/F Mrs Shanice Fowler, 11 Turnbull Road, March.  
Erect a single-storey rear and side extension at 11 Turnbull Road, March.  
Received; 1 February 2023  
Reply by: 22 February 2023  
**Recommendation; Approval**
- F/YR23/0075/F Miss Hamilton, Varidi Investment Ltd, The Cedars, 30 Regent Avenue, March.  
Agent; Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd.  
Erect a first-floor rear extension at 54 North Street, March.  
Received; 1 February 2023  
Reply by: 22 February 2023  
**Recommendation; Approval**
- F/YR23/0076/F Claudia Cantellow, 58 Norwood Road, March.  
Agent: Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd  
Erect part single-storey/part 2-storey rear and 2-storey side extensions to existing dwelling, involving demolition of existing rear extension at 15 Alpha Street, March.  
Received; 2 February 2023  
Reply by; 23 February 2023  
**Recommendation; Approval**

## **161 Public Participation**

Since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation took place.

## **162 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

- 9 January 2023 – Main Council Meeting
- 10 January 2023 – Personnel & Administration
- 23 January 2023 – Planning Sub-Committee
- 23 January 2023 – Christmas Lights

## **163 Matters Arising**

### **Re; Main Council Meeting - 9 January 2023**

#### Minute 143

A Broad Street Steering Group meeting took place on Monday 23 January via Zoom.

Fenland District Council's 3 planning applications (fountain x 2, toilets x 1) will be considered by the Planning Committee on Wednesday 8 February 2023.

#### Minute 150

An update from Jacob Hobbs from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department was received on 17 January 2023 providing an update on the progress of the Creek Road and Estover Road LHI for 2022-2023.

#### Minute 152

Regarding the Burnt House Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Simon Bell (FDC) confirmed that benches had already been purchased, but a quote had been requested from Aaron Locks for an upgraded CCTV camera unit or the possibility of a single, linked camera in the vicinity of the BMX track on West End Park. Unfortunately, it was not possible for March Town Council to apply for the grant because the Town Council does not have Safeguarding or Equality policies, as discussed with Cllr J French on 24 January 2023. Cllr J French requested that the Mayor liaise with the Clerk with a view to implementing additional policies.

### **Re; Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee - 10 January 2023**

#### (f)

It was resolved that the Civility and Respect/NALC Model Councillor-Officer Protocol be adopted by March Town Council forthwith. A copy has been circulated to all Councillors.

#### (g)

The Clerk had a demonstration of "Scribe"- an online accounts package specifically designed for town and parish councils on 17 January 2023, which would be hugely beneficial to the Town Council for payment, invoicing and accounting processes. The cost will be £900.00 pa + VAT with an initial and one-off set-up fee of £719.00 + VAT (£1942.80 (incl)).

## **164 Standing Orders**

Further to the meeting of the Personnel and Administration committee on 10 January 2023, it was agreed that the Standing Orders be revised to provide clarification in relation to members of the public registering with the Clerk to speak at meetings. The revised Standing Orders were hereby approved and adopted.

## **165 Scribe Online Accounting**

Further to the meeting of the Personnel and Administration committee on 10 January 2023, the Clerk had taken part in a demonstration of "Scribe" – an online accounts package

specifically designed for Town and Parish councils' accounting needs. It was agreed that the purchase/subscription thereto be approved by Councillors at this main meeting. All Councillors agreed to move forward with online banking and accounting. The Clerk confirmed that the set-up process was underway and a manual back-up would be run for the first year.

## **166 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis.

Cllr J Gowing reported that concerns had been received about the war memorial and fears that people would climb on it or sit on it (as depicted in the FDC artists impression). Cllr J French confirmed that MATS had been discussing the possibility of erecting railings around it to prevent such disrespectful behaviour.

MATS had also been discussing the Hostmoor roundabout and improvements at St Peters Road and High Street at their meeting last week.

There is a budget meeting tomorrow (7 February). Many services would suffer cuts.

A Highways and Transport Improvement Board meeting was attended by Cllr J French and potholes and the appalling and dangerous state of Fenland's roads was discussed. Disappointingly, South Cambs' roads would be done before Fenlands.

Cllr D Connor is meeting with senior CCC officials this week to take them on a tour of the worst of Fenland's roads. It is evident that any pothole repairs are "quick-fix" and sub-standard.

## **167 Fenland District Council Update**

Cllr J French advised Councillors that the budget setting for FDC looked good. At the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee today FDC was doing well and would not be cutting services.

## **168 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Councillor K French .....6 March 2023  
Mayor of March.